92 to 501 during 1994-95. The total number of passengers and railway staff who lost their lives in railway accidents decreased by 12.7% from 118 in 1991-92 to 103 in 1994-95. The number of road users who lost their lives, mainly in accidents at level crossings, increased from 111 to 200 during the above period.

(e) The cost of damage to railway property in train accidents during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 has been Rs. 66.10 crores, Rs. 57.09 crores and Rs. 72.51 crores (provisional) respectively.

(f) Some of the steps taken to improve safety performance of Indian Railways are indicated below:—

i) Nearly 17,000 drivers with less than 10 years active driving service and 40,000 station staff have been subjected to special screening and those found deficient were given crash training.

ii) Two high-level safety teams have been making extensive spot checks and inspections of field installations and practices.

iii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal or removal from service is being imposed on staff causing serious train accidents.

iv) Elimination of collisions has been made one of the mission areas for General Managers of the Indian Railways.

v) Instant Action Groups have been formed on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and carrying inflammable/explosive material.

vi) Carriage and Wagon examination of rolling stock has been strengthened and rationalised.

vii) Track circuiting works on Rajdhani and Shatabdi routes have been speeded up.

viii) Track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated.

ix) Regular inspections are carried out by Officers, inspectors and supervisors to ensure that the staff follow the correct rules and procedures.

x) Modern safety aids like track circuiting, panel interlocking, exle counters, etc. have been provided to improve safety.

Surplus railway land

329. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal of leasing out surplus Railway land in the metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore and Madras;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals;

(c) whether any industrial houses or foreign investors including NRIs have since approached Government with any proposals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

वनों में आग लगना

330. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस वर्ष विभिन्न राज्यों में वनों में आग लगने से करोड़ों रुपये की क्षति हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इससे हुई क्षति का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा जंगलों को आग से होने वाली क्षति से बचाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) और (ख) राज्य सरकारों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों से सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।